# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# FINANCE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1254
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
CLAIMS OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the General Insurance Companies have refused to compensate the policy holders for the damage caused to their properties in Gujarat as a result of earthquake on January 26, 2001 on the plea that earthquake clause was not mentioned in the insurance policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to ask the General Insurance Companies in Gujarat to view the miseries of earthquake victims sympathetically and on humanitarian grounds;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

## Answer

MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a)& (b): The general insurance companies have informed that the insurance policies cover only the insured perils and compensation can not be given to those policy holders who have not taken the earthquake cover.

(c)& (d): Yes Sir. The insurance companies have drawn up an action plan for expeditious settlement of claims and have also dispensed with many of its normal requirements for claim settlements such as-

(i) Waiver of post mortem report.

(ii) If Death Certificate is not available, a letter from Sarpanch, Talati, Mamlatdar etc. can be obtained.In the absence of any of these, death claims are settled merely on the basis of Letter of Indemnity on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 20/-.

(iii) Police panchnama and Meterorological Report not to be insisted upon in case of property claims.

(iv) No driving licence in case of motor claims will be insisted upon.

(v) Where salvage has been removed by the authorities alongwith debris, requirement for collection of salvage may be waived after obtaining affidavit or Indemnity Bond.

(vi) For death claims below Rs.5 lakhs, successor may be certified by way of an affidavit before Magistrate or Mamlatdar.

(vii) Higher financial authority has been delegated to Regional/Divisional in-charge.

(viii) Offices have been authorised to dispose of claims as `individual ` for application of financial authority.

(ix) For death claims below Rs.5 lakhs, successor may be certified by way of an affidavit before Magistrate or Mamlatdar.